

700-X-2-.01 Appropriate Education Required.

(1) United States Educated Applicants. Each applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must have completed a program of physical therapy education appropriate for preparation as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, respectively, which is approved by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

(2) Non-United States Educated Applicants.

(a) Statement of Policy. Foreign educated physical therapist applicants must demonstrate educational equivalency to the United States educated physical therapists in accordance with this rule. Physical therapy education should be broadly based and designed to enable an individual to contribute to society in many ways as a comprehensively educated person as well as to provide specific technical expertise. Consequently, physical therapy education requires a considerable amount of general education as well as professional education in terms of minimum credit and general content.

(b) Submission of Educational Credentials. Foreign educated physical therapist applicants shall submit their education credentials to:

International Credentialing Associates, Inc.
10801 Starkey Road
Suite 104
Seminole FL 33777

Telephone (727) 549-8555

A copy of the evaluation by the credentials evaluating agency must be sent directly to the Board.

(c) Specific Education Requirements. A minimum of the equivalency of 124 semester hours if completed before 2003 and 155 semester hours if completed from 2003 to the present as provided in this rule is required for licensure. The Board shall make the sole judgment in determining whether educational credentials are equivalent and acceptable. An English translated copy of the transcript must be sent directly to the Board from the university.

(d) Applicant must have made acceptable scores on either the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Test of Spoken English (TSE) and Test of Written English (TWE) or on all components of the TOEFL internet Based Testing (iBT). Acceptable scores are: TOEFL-220, TSE-50, TWE-4.5, iBT Writing-24, iBT Speaking-26, iBT Reading Comprehension-21, and iBT Listening Comprehension-18.

1. General Education Requirements. Applicants must

demonstrate that they have earned the equivalent of a minimum of 62 semester hours in general education, including the following:

(i) Humanities -- a minimum of 10 semester hours which must include the equivalent of spoken and written English and may include art, music, drama, speech, languages, etc.

(ii) Social Sciences -- a minimum of 8 semester hours which must include psychology and may include history, sociology, government, etc.

(iii) Natural Sciences -- a minimum of 12 semester hours which must include physics and chemistry and may include mathematics, geology, etc.

(iv) Biological Sciences -- a minimum of 12 semester hours which must include human anatomy and physiology and may include biology, zoology, etc.

(v) Limited Electives -- a minimum of 10 semester hours in social sciences, natural sciences and biological sciences in addition to those minimums required above.

(vi) General Electives -- a minimum of 10 semester hours which may include any subjects selected outside the major area of study.

2. Professional Education Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate that they have earned the equivalent of a minimum of 62 semester hours in physical therapy education, if completing their education before 2003 and 93 semester hours if completing their education from 2003 to the present. This education shall include the following:

(i) Basic Health Sciences -- a minimum of 22 semester hours if completing their education before 2003, and 28 semester hours if completing their education from 2003 to the present. These Basic Health Sciences must include human anatomy and physiology; should include functional anatomy, kinesiology, pathology, neurology, abnormal psychology; and may include embryology, histology, pharmacology, etc.

(ii) Clinical Sciences -- a minimum of 26 semester hours if completing their education before 2003, and 45 semester hours if completing their education from 2003 to the present. These Clinical Sciences must include physical therapy theory, techniques and interventions; should include clinical medicine, development; and may include community health, research, administration, etc.

(iii) Clinical Education -- a minimum of 14 semester hours if completing their education before 2003, and 20 semester hours if completing their education from 2003 to the present. This Clinical Education must include supervised

clinical application of physical therapy theory, procedures, etc.

(iv) Proof of licensure in country in which physical therapy education was completed.

(d) Educational Deficiencies. In the event of deficiencies in an educational program evaluation the individual may petition the Board for recommendations to remedy the deficiencies. The Board in considering a petition for remedy of deficiencies is not obligated to provide any other assistance than a response.

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Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-212; 34-24-193; 34-24-216.

History: Filed September 30, 1982; effective date September 15, 1982. **Amended:** January 3, 1990; Filed September 4, 1992; effective October 9, 1992. **Amended:** September 9, 1993; effective October 14, 1993. **Amended:** May 6, 1996; effective June 10, 1996. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed November 2, 2001; effective December 7, 2001. **Amended:** Filed May 12, 2003; effective June 16, 2003. **Amended:** Filed February 28, 2006; effective April 3, 2006. **Amended:** October 18, 2006; effective December 4, 2006. **Amended:** Filed November 30, 2009; effective January 4, 2010.